MOBILITY

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRENDAN BYRNE, Governor | JUNE 1980 | LOUIS J. GAMBACCINI, Commissioner

Gambaccini sets interstate goals

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini has announced a major restructuring of New Jersey's Interstate Highway and overall transportation improvement programs.

Approximately 349 miles of interstate highways now are opened to traffic or under construction in New Jersey, with eight major interstate projects totalling approximately 72 miles in various stages of development and environmental analysis.

"We have conducted an intensive analysis of these projects, most of which were first proposed more than 20 years ago, in the context of the modern realities of energy conservation, environmental concerns and land use," said Gambaccini.

"Five of these eight projects will close critical gaps in the Interstate system, and result in significant regional and local traffic improvement. They are justified by all measures of transportation planning and should be completed in the 1980s," he said.

These five projects involve construction of approximately 35 miles of new roadway at a cost of more than $600 million at today's prices. They include: I-78 in Union and I-78 in Warren Counties; I-195/295 in Mercer and Burlington Counties; I-295 in Gloucester County;

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'Share the Ride' winners honored

"Share the Ride, Save Energy" was the theme of DOT's second Transportation Week School Art and Essay contest. Seven first place winners were honored at State House ceremonies on May 14 where they received a $50 U.S. Savings Bond and a plaque. Twelve "Honorable Mentions" also were announced.

The winners were:

Art, Best in Show

Garry Givens, St. Mary's High School, Jersey City

Art, Grades 7-12

Lester Givens, Fleming Junior High School, Trenton (Winner)

Michele Anthony, Paul VI Regional High School, Clifton (Honorable Mention)

Tim Bartel, Middlesex High School, Middlesex (Honorable Mention)

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Courtesy of Frank DiGiacomo, Newark *Star-Ledger*

'Jersey Cannon Ball' added to NE Corridor

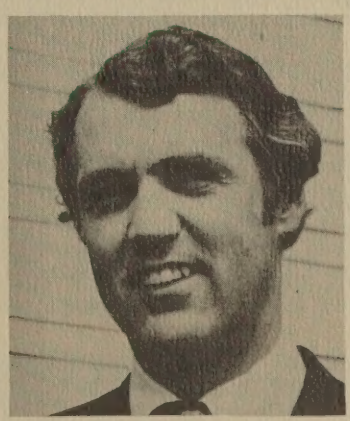
More than 900 commuters took advantage of the "Jersey Cannon Ball," an additional eight-car 920-seat rush hour train, on its first run on the busy Northeast Corridor Line on May 5. The first train to be added to the line in three years, NJ TRANSIT's "Jersey Cannon Ball" stops at Trenton, Princeton Junction, New Brunswick, Metropark, Newark and New York to relieve overcrowding in other rush hour trains and add capacity for new riders. NJ TRANSIT's Bill Felix, who is also a bluegrass singer, entertained surprised morning commuters with railroad songs at Metropark.

Premo named NJ TRANSIT head

Jerome C. Premo, 36, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, has been named executive director of NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey's new statewide public transit agency at a salary of $64,000.

"Mr. Premo is a skilled and experienced transit administrator and we are very pleased that he will be NJ TRANSIT's first executive director," said Transportation Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini, who is also chairman of NJ TRANSIT's Board of Directors.

Premo, a native of Brockton, Mass., holds degrees from Notre Dame University and the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He has spent his entire career in transportation at both federal and local levels. The Los Angeles Commission he directed is responsible for all policy and program analysis and allocation of more than $200 million annually in federal funds for transit subsidies and highway improvement programs in an area which encompasses 81 cities with a population of over 7 million people.



Jerome C. Premo

He previously held positions in the federal Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) as Associate Adminis-

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Extra services aid strikebound

Special NJ TRANSIT services eased the lot of New Jersey commuters during New York City's MTA strike April 1-11.

Nearly 15,000 commuters took advantage of a special bus shuttle which ran every 15 minutes during the morning peak hours in Fort Lee along four regular routes from LeMoine Avenue, at the approach to the George Washington Bridge, directly to the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown. TNJ buses south of Jersey City and Hoboken also were more heavily patronized during the nine days of the strike.

NJ TRANSIT trains averaged a 15 percent increase in ridership throughout the strike, reaching 25 percent on the Pascack Valley Line. When ridership on one train on the Morristown Line jumped from 130 to 700 passengers a day, equipment was added for the rush hours. The Bergen Line also added two trains to its normal service.The Raritan Valley Line reported 20% more passengers using it before 7 a.m. each morning during the strike.

The Meadowlands Sports Complex was converted to a park and ride facility during the strike. Nearly 725 people took advantage of the special shuttle bus service between the Meadowlands and Port Authority Bus Terminal which ran every ten minutes from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 7p.m., a supplement to the regular Maplewood Equipment Company route. More than 500 cars parked at the Sports Complex during the strike and approximately 60 carpools were formed.

The special park and ride service was a major cooperative effort of NJ TRANSIT and the Sports Authority.

DOT builds first noise barriers

Noise barriers along Route 676 in Camden are among the first to be constructed by the Department to meet federal aid highway regulations on "design noise levels".

Others will be constructed this year on a Route 280 bridge in Harrison and along state-owned portions of the Garden State Parkway.

When noise levels studied during planning stages of a proposed highway alignment exceed federal standards, the roadway's profile and alignment sometimes can be adjusted. When this is not possible, or when noise level is considered after the engineering of the road, the noise barrier may be a solution. These are constructed from a variety of materials—cinder block, fiberglass, steel, wood, brick—one which blends into the road's environment. For example, the design of Philadelphia's new noise barrier along I-95 includes a cityscape and the Rising Sun (from Independence Hall) mural motifs. On New Jersey's Route 676, the ten foot precast concrete barrier is stained a brown earth tone and is landscaped.

How well do noise barriers work? One engineer in DOT's Environmental Analysis noise analysis technical section says they successfully reduce noise levels by ten decibels, or make it half as loud.

The Department analyzes noise levels both in the planning stages for new highway construction and for the correction of existing problems, for example, along Route 80 from Route 287 to the George Washington Bridge and along Route 169 in Bayonne.

Noise barrier technology has improved—an absorbant fiberglass-filled noise barrier planned for Route 23 in Wayne, for example—and community input increased in the past five years. Department representatives meet with municipal officials to discuss proposed noise barriers and then present an information center for local citizens. The final decision follows later.

Winners

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Renee Dan. Mary Help of Christians Academy. North Haledon (Honorable Mention)

Art, Grades 4-6

Ellen Oosdyk. School No. 1. Clifton (Winner)

Paula Tumolo. Rush Elementary. Cinnaminson (Honorable Mention)

Drew McKenzie. Immaculate Conception. Franklin (Honorable Mention)

Art, Grades K-3

Natalie Delozier. Washington School. Trenton (Winner)

Tina Rusomanno. Washington School. Trenton (Honorable Mention)

Poetry, Grades 7-12

Jack Ades. Shore Regional High School. West Long Branch (Winner)

Lester Givens. Flemming Junior High School. Trenton (Winner)

Raid Sawaged. P.S. No. 28. Jersey City (Honorable Mention)

Robert G. Yeager. Our Lady of Good Counsel. Moorestown (Honorable Mention)

Essay, Grades 7-12

Jared Silverman. Shore Regional High School. West Long Branch (Winner)

Wayne Upshur. Fleming Junior High School. Trenton (Honorable Mention)

Susan Dunn. Middlesex High School. Middlesex (Honorable Mention)

Mark Stolarz. Paul VI Regional High School. Clifton (Honorable Mention)

Essay, Grades 4-6

Peter Albohn. Waldwick Middle School. Waldwick (Winner)

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Interstate goals

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and I-287 in Morris, Passaic and Bergen Counties.

The Commissioner also said that he will recommend to the federal government a substitute $445 million Transportation Program to replace the other three Interstate projects which do not appear to be in the state's best interest. Based on extensive analysis by the Department of Transportation, these projects—I-895 in Burlington County; I-95 and I-695 in Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties—would not provide significant regional and local traffic relief and are not essential to the Interstate system, he said. A public meeting was held on the I-95 project in May.

Earlier this year, the state received approval from the Secretary of Transportation for the dedesignation of Interstate Route 495 in Hudson County, and an approximate $54 million substitution program consisting primarily of mass transportation projects and some local highway improvements. This marked the first Interstate substitution sought by New Jersey.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) permits states to substitute other highway and public transit projects, using federal funds, when Interstate Highway Projects are abandoned. With federal approval, these federal funds are provided when matched with 15 percent state or local funds. The estimated value of the three projects recommended for substitution is $445 million, which would be available for other road and transit improvements in the early 1980's.

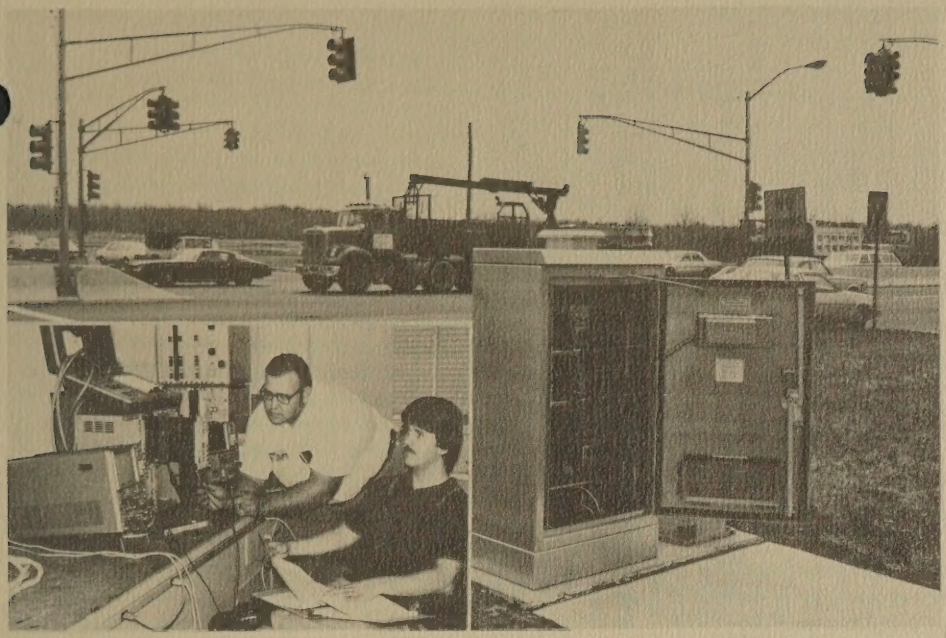
Therefore, the restructured transportation program would total more than $1 billion—$600 million for the Interstate projects to be constructed and $445 million for substitution projects. These substitution funds must be applied for in the regular annual federal budget process.

The Commissioner expressed his hope that the newly restructured program would move forward quickly, noting that further delays in any decisions regarding interstate routes will only prolong the unrest and uncoordinated local planning that has been associated with the history of many of these projects. In addition, there is a need to comply with the 1978 Surface Transportation Act which requires the interstate projects to receive federal approval by 1983 for construction of missing interstate segments and/or in the development of substitute projects.

He expressed his desire to work closely with local elected officials in the careful selection of projects to assure public acceptance of the restructured transportation program.

If all New Jersey based aircraft were parked wingtip to wingtip, the line of aircraft would be over 27 miles long.

(*DOT Flight Log*, June 1980)



To improve traffic flow, all traffic signals on U.S. Route 1 from Route 295 to the New Brunswick Circle were electrically interconnected by a telephone line for positive coordination of timing between the intersections. Signal operations also were modified to make them more responsive to traffic. (Insert) Department's electrical technicians run tests on the new device.

Commuter air industry grows

Commuter airlines make up the fastest growing segment in transportation in New Jersey, according to DOT figures. Fourteen airlines carried 331,880 passengers in 1979 in the state, an increase of 55 percent over the 1978 total of 213,117.

"Commuter airlines will continue to grow in the 1980s, highlighted by increased service to New Jersey's smaller cities, a wider range of destination points and expansion of facilities at Newark International Airport and in Atlantic City and Pomona," reported Walter Kies, NJDOT's Director of Aeronautics.

Newark International continues to expand, leading the New York-New Jersey Region with a 9.8 percent growth rate. New Jersey's largest airport served 9,297,000 passengers in 1979, as compared to 8,469,000 in 1978. It has 5,100 employees and annual payroll and contracted services totalling $131 million.

"Newark International is the only air facility in the metropolitan area that has future growth potential," said Kies. "The merger of Pan American and National Airlines will result in additional services at Newark and in New Jersey and the reestablishment of the Newark-Washington shuttle."

The scope of aviation in New Jersey goes well beyond commuter airlines, generating $502 million worth of business annually. There are 3,352 registered aircraft in the state, 17,400 resident pilots, 82 airports, eight seaplane bases and 388 heliports and helistops. A total of 26,050 employees work at Newark International, N.A.F.E.C. at Pomona, naval facilities at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, McGuire Air Force Base and at general aviation airports in New Jersey.

NJDOT FACTS FILE

Sign and Highway Permit Program

Sign Permits		Highway Permits	
Renewals	15,575	Driveway access and utility	
New	967	Permits etc.	3,003
Companies licensed	96	Permit fees collected	$367,000
Illegal signs removed	512		
Violations processed	1,035		
New signs cited	1,026		
Sign fees collected	$240,000		

Source: Outdoor Advertising Section, April 1980

'Early Action' funds total $24 million

Commissioner Louis J. Gambaccini announced that 247 municipalities and all 21 counties will receive 1979 Transportation Bond Issue "early action program" funds totalling $24 million for resurfacing, restoring and rehabilitation (RRR) of local and county roads.

The funds are the first appropriation from the State Aid portion of the 1979 Bond Issue, representing half of the $48 million RRR program which was made available for early action projects ready to go in the 1980 construction season.

Counties and municipalities sent project applications for the "early action" program earlier in the year which were reviewed by a screening committee of local engineers, and DOT staff. Projects not selected for the early action program and subsequent new project applications will also be reviewed by the screening committee. The RRR program provides for 90% of the cost of construction for local projects. Allocation is based on population and road mileage by county for projects submitted by counties and their municipalities.

In addition to the $48 million RRR program, the State Aid portion of the Bond Issue includes $20 million for local projects eligible for federal matching funds, and $12 million for emergency, joint development and urban initiative projects.

Spring in bloom

Last fall's landscaping of the Woodcrest Station in Camden resulted in a rich, colorful display of flowering shrubs and trees this spring. This season the Department is planting 1,820 shade trees, 2,816 flowering trees, 3,200 evergreens, 76,000 shrubs and 1,400 vines statewide. Two major landscaping projects are the 1.6 mile stretch of Interstate Route 80 in Paterson from Beckwith Avenue to Route 20 and a similar length along Route 676 from Atlantic Avenue to the North Branch of the Newton Creek in Camden. Besides aesthetic value, landscaping helps solve environmental problems such as erosion, sight and sound screening and wildlife food and cover. In some areas it also can control snow drifting, eliminate the need for more mowing and increase safety through relief of driving boredom.

Premo

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trator for Transit Assistance with responsibility for management and administration of over $2 billion in federal grants, Director of Technical Studies and worked on the transfer of transit programs from Housing and Urban Development to UMTA. At UMTA he received the Secretary of Transportation Award, a Presidental Commendation and the UMTA Administrator's Award.

Commissioner Gambaccini addressed a luncheon at the "TRANSACTION '80" conference. With him were Deputy Commissioner John Jamieson, Governor Brendan Byrne and Commissioner Joel Jacobson of the Department of Energy.

250 attend statewide conference

More than 250 legislators, local government officials, social service agency representatives, environmentalists, engineers and planners and private transportation and land development executives attended "TRANSACTION 1980," the fourth annual statewide transportation conference which was held at the Trenton Motor Lodge April 28 and 29.

"All forms of transportation have a better prognosis than two years ago thanks to Lou Gambaccini and the people at the DOT," said Governor Brendan Byrne, addressing the opening luncheon. He said he was encouraged by the formation of NJ TRANSIT. "I think it will work; we have more people than ever needing and using mass transit, we can no longer wait for 'next year' to effect improvements," the Governor said.

Registrants chose from 17 different panels with topics ranging from energy and transportation planning to ridesharing and mobility for the transportation disadvantaged.

In addressing the panel on Energy Conservation and Economic Growth, Joel Jacobson, Commissioner of the Department of Energy said, "In 1972 the U.S. consumed four million barrels of oil per day, last year it was up to eight million. It has become our 'patriotic imperative' to extricate ourselves from our dependence on the Arabs."

Exhibits and demonstrations vied with the panels for the attention of the attendees. DOT's office of Community Involvement contributed a TSM (Transportation Systems Management) exhibit with photographs of DOT in action. Outside the building a wide array of buses and vans were on display.

The articulated bus, produced by Mann of Germany, seized much interest. It is called "articulated" because an accordian—like series of folds in the middle permits it to "bend," substantially reducing the turning radius of the up to 100 passenger bus. During a demonstration ride it was difficult to determine who was more excited by the "bending bus," transportation specialists or the passers-by surprised by the unusual spectacle.

Presentations were made at a banquet held the first evening. Three awards of "High Esteem" went to Commissioner Gambaccini; Gary Verhoorn, Director, Division of Bus Management, NJ TRANSIT and Charles Tarsi of the Hunterdon County State School. Awards of "Outstanding Merit" were presented to 20 county transportation professionals and 12 DOT and NJ TRANSIT employees.

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Aviation education

As opportunities grow for careers in aviation, the Department's Division of Aeronautics is helping to train tomorrow's commercial pilots and flight attendants.

Mercer County Community College established an Aviation Technology program in 1972 at the urging of the Department. It began with 20 students and has grown to 120 students who are working toward associate degrees in Flight Technology, Operations Management and Flight Attendant Training.

James Varanyak of the Division of Aeronautics serves on an advisory commision which monitors the program. He and Division Director Walter Kies take an active part in the classes, informing students about the Division's operations, accident prevention and investigation and flight safety.

Did you know?

The Department estimates that there are almost five million bicycles in the state.

Since 1975, DOT has constructed 20 bikeways totalling 175 miles at a cost of $1.8 million. Two bikeways are under construction and 36 are in the planning and design stages. Bicycling also is permitted on over 32,000 miles of State, county and municipal roadways in New Jersey.

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New sign brochure

A new DOT publication, *a guide to posting signs along new jersey roads,* is being distributed. Copies of this and other booklets pertaining to the Outdoor Advertising Program may be had by writing the Outdoor Advertising Section, New Jersey Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 101, Trenton, N. J. 08625.